
MEASURE U

PROPOSED PENRYN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNEXATION INTO THE LOOMIS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Shall the Penryn Elementary School District annex into the Loomis Union School District?

YES ____ NO ____

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY PLACER COUNTY COUNSEL

The Boards of Trustees of both the Loomis Union Elementary School District (hereinafter Loomis District) and the Penryn Elementary School District (hereinafter Penryn District) are proposing to annex and transfer the Penryn District to the Loomis District.

The Boards of Trustees have proposed this action because they have determined that the Penryn District is too small to afford the administrative staff needed to meet the needs of its students, teachers, staff and parents. In addition, annexation of the districts would result in cost savings due to economies of scale and elimination of duplicate positions and services.

Currently the estimated student enrollment in the Loomis District is 1900. The Penryn District is estimated to be 280. If approved by the voters, the resulting District would have a student population of approximately 2,180. All personal and real property owned by the Penryn District would become the property of the Loomis District. All existing bonded indebtedness of the Loomis District will remain as bonded debt only on property within the original

Loomis District. This existing bonded indebtedness would not be extended to the property owned within the annexed Penryn District.

A "YES" vote is a vote in favor of the annexation and transfer of the Penryn Elementary School District to the Loomis Union Elementary School District.

A "NO" vote is a vote against of the annexation and transfer of the Penryn Elementary School District to the Loomis Union Elementary School District.

Measure U must receive approval by the majority of the votes cast by the voters voting upon the measure within both affected districts to be considered approved by the voters.

Anthony J. La Bouff
County Counsel

By: Sabrina M. Thompson
Deputy County Counsel

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE U

Penryn Voters:

The Penryn Elementary School District has requested annexation into the Loomis Union School District.

The previous decade has proven that one person acting as a superintendent/principal is ineffective. Over the last 9 years Penryn has had 6 different administrators and 15 different board members. The individuals simply become overwhelmed and leave.

Multiple administrative systems have been tried. A contract superintendent from Loomis with a Penryn principal has proven extremely effective. The student API test scores rose from 747 to 842 last year. Our rank among like schools went from two to nine out of ten.

By joining with LUSD, Penryn Elementary School will continue to benefit from the economy of scale that Loomis enjoys. With 4 schools and 1800 students, Loomis has the funding necessary to provide improved student services. This combination provides the best long-term education for children of both communities without increasing taxes. Penryn community representation will continue since most of Penryn will be within one Trustee Area. Annexation will be virtually transparent to the students of Penryn.

Trustees and administration of each district have been working diligently on combining the school districts for

over two years and solicited input from and addressed concerns of each community.

Loomis Voters:

Annexation of Penryn School District into Loomis Union School District is a positive example of community support and cooperation. The parents in Loomis and Penryn share a common heritage as well as physical adjacency. Our children attend the same high school, play local sports together, and participate in local events.

There are economies of scale and no fiscal downside to Loomis Union School District by helping our neighboring students in Penryn. The annexation has been specifically planned to enhance the education for children, provide stability for staff, and reduce the burden of county and state economics.

James L. Foster, Jr., President PESD Board of Trustees
Gary A. Mattevi, President LUSD Board of Trustees
Edward N. Bonner, Placer County Sheriff
Alfred D. Nobili, Placer County Superintendent of Schools
Harriet White, Placer County Supervisor, District Three

<p>NO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE U WAS SUBMITTED</p>

PETITION

BEFORE THE PLACER COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

LOOMIS UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND
PENRYN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT,
PETITION TO ANNEX PENRYN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
DISTRICT TO LOOMIS UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
DISTRICT

Petitioners.

I. INTRODUCTION

This petition is filed to annex and transfer the Penryn Elementary School District to the Loomis Union Elementary School District. The Governing Boards of each affected School District support this petition.

II. DESIGNATION OF CHIEF PETITIONER

Pursuant to Education Code Section 35701, the undersigned petitioners appoint Gigg Powers, Superintendent for Loomis Union Elementary School District, as chief petitioner for the purpose of receiving any notices required by law. Such notices should be sent to:

GIGG POWERS
Loomis Union Elementary School District
3290 Humphrey Road
Loomis, CA 95650
(916) 652-1800

III. REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF TERRITORY

Petitioners request that the Penryn Elementary School District be annexed by the Loomis Union Elementary School District for the following reasons:

1. Penryn Elementary School District is too small to afford the administrative staff needed to effectively meet the needs of its students, teachers, staff and parents. Indeed, Penryn's administrators are perpetually overburdened by the District's inability to employ enough staff.
2. Having two separate school Districts results in the duplication of positions and services. Thus, the Annexation of the Penryn Elementary School District by the Loomis Union Elementary School District would be more efficient than having the Districts remain as separate entities. The merger of the two Districts would result in future savings due to economies of scale.

IV. THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT SHOULD APPROVE AND TRANSMIT THIS PETITION

Education Code Section 35704 provides that the County Superintendent shall transmit a petition simultaneously to the County Committee on School District Reorganization ("County Committee") and to the State Board of Education within thirty (30) days after a petition is filed, if the County Superintendent finds that the petition is sufficient and is signed as required by law.

This Petition has been initiated and signed by a majority of the members of the governing boards of each of the Districts affected by this proposed reorganization

(Education Code Section 35700(d)). Therefore, this Petition is sufficient and should be transmitted to the County Committee and the State Board of Education.

V. THE COUNTY COMMITTEE SHOULD APPROVE THIS PETITION

This is a petition to transfer territory from one school district to another pursuant to Education Code Section 35710, which provides that the County Committee is authorized to approve a petition to transfer territory if it finds that the conditions enumerated in Section 35753 (a) of the Education Code are substantially met. As shown below, the County Committee is authorized to approve this petition because the conditions have been substantially met.

A. The Required Criteria (Section 35753 (a))

1. The Remaining District Will Be Adequate in Terms of Number of Pupils Enrolled.

The California Code of Regulations section 18573(a)(1)(A) states that any proposed elementary school district must have a projected enrollment of 901 on the effective date of the reorganization in order to be adequate. Enrollment counts prepared in October 2003 list the student population at Loomis and Penryn at about 1,900 and 280 respectively. Thus, when the Annexation becomes effective, the reorganized school District will easily exceed the 901 student requirement.

2. After Annexation, The District Will Be Organized on the Basis of Substantial Community Identity.

Currently, the Loomis Union Elementary School District and the Penryn Elementary School District have substantially similar community identities. Penryn Elementary School District and Loomis Union Elementary School District have identical topography, weather and rural life styles, and the Districts also have similar housing stock. In addition, students in each District share common resources, including, but not limited to, Lions Club, churches, athletic organizations, cheerleading, 4-H, and Boy and Girl Scouts of America.

Loomis Union Elementary School District and Penryn Elementary School District also currently share a myriad of programs, including summer school, Project Aim, assemblies, field days, dances, and administrative support in cabinet meetings; and both K-8 school Districts feed into Del Oro High School. Penryn Elementary School District also contracts with Loomis for superintendent services, maintenance, food service, and psychological services.

Therefore, given all of the above, the reorganized District would have substantial community identity.

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3. The Proposal Will Result in an Equitable Division of Property and Facilities of the Original Districts.

This criteria is not technically applicable here given that the merger will not result in a *division* of property.

Nevertheless, all real property owned by the current Districts, will become the real property of the reorganized Loomis Union Elementary School District. Loomis is comprised of four operating school sites, and the Penryn Elementary School District is comprised of one operating school site. There is currently no other real property owned by either District.

Each District currently owns numerous items of personal property, including various items of furniture, equipment and vehicles. These items will become the property of Loomis after Annexation.

4. The Annexation of Penryn Elementary School District Will Not Promote Racial or Ethnic Discrimination or Segregation¹.

The current racial and ethnic make-up of Loomis Union Elementary School District and Penryn Elementary School District is quite similar, with Loomis being slightly more heterogeneous. The California Department of Education's CBEDS prepared in October 2003 provides the basis for the following percentage breakdown of ethnicity in each District.

Ethnicity	Loomis	Penryn
Caucasian	% 85.7	% 90.7
Hispanic	04.4	02.5
Asian	01.4	01.8
African-American	00.4	00.4
Filipino	00.6	00.0
American Indian/Alaska	01.5	03.2
Other	05.8	01.1
Pacific Islander	00.2	00.3
% Non-Caucasian	14.3	09.3

Prior to the Annexation, the Districts have comparable ethnic make-up, and the Annexation itself will not promote racial discrimination.

5. The Proposed Annexation Will Not Result in Any Substantial Increase in Costs to the State.

No additional State costs are anticipated due to the proposed Annexation. Indeed, the proposed Annexation of the Loomis and Penryn Districts should result in savings to the State. The Annexation of the Penryn District may eliminate some aspects of State costs for programs currently operating in both Districts.

Penryn currently receives higher rates in some immaterial funding categories, as a result of being identified as a "small and/or single" school district. Although annexation would result in a small savings to the State by eliminating funding in these specific areas,

the level of service provided will not be materially affected, as the increased economy of scale would offset an immaterial funding loss.

6. The Proposed Annexation Will Not Significantly Disrupt the Educational Programs in the Districts Affected by the Proposed Annexation and Will Promote Sound Educational Performance in the Remaining District.

The California Department of Education reports the following data on the academic achievement of the two Districts:

	Loomis	Penryn
2002 API scores	816	797
2003 August AYP goal met:		
Language Arts	Yes	Yes
Mathematics	Yes	Yes

California Standards Tests:

Percentage of students proficient or advanced:

Penryn- Grades	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
English	69	63	73	65	72	50	64
Math	65	46	70	74	65	43	66
Loomis- Grades	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
English	68	62	69	59	63	66	50
Math	83	69	73	55	60	51	62

This information indicates that both Penryn and Loomis provide high quality education for their students. Thus, the merger of these two high quality Districts would continue to support sound educational performance.

In addition, given that Penryn and Loomis use the same or similar educational programs, the merger will not be significantly disruptive. Both Districts have adopted State approved standards based curriculum. In Language Arts, both Districts use the Houghton Mifflin program in grades K-5 and the McDougal Littell program in grades 6-8. In science, both Districts use Harcourt in grades 4-6, and in social studies, both Districts use McGraw in grades K-6 and Houghton Mifflin in grade 7.

7. The Proposed Annexation Will Not Result in a Significant Increase in School Housing Costs.

All students in both the Loomis and Penryn Districts are adequately housed in a combination of permanent and portable classrooms. Loomis is currently constructing the third and final phase of the H. Clarke Powers Elementary School, a school which first opened in August, 2000. This project consists of seven additional permanent classrooms and related restroom and other facilities. This project will take place regardless of the status of the proposed Annexation.

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¹ It is hard to imagine a merger ever promoting racial or ethnic discrimination or segregation. This criterion appears designed to prevent a reorganization whereby a relatively homogenous portion of a school district splits off from an existing district.

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Each District has additional long range building plans dependant on funding. The proposed Annexation will enhance these building plans by adding economies of scale and additional flexibility. Penryn will benefit from the Annexation, by gaining permanent access to the Loomis's Maintenance and Grounds operation.

8. The Proposed Annexation Is Not Primarily Designed to Result in a Significant Increase in Property Values Causing Financial Advantage to Property Owners.

This Annexation is not designed to increase property values or create any financial advantage to property owners in either School District. This Annexation is proposed by the two School Boards for the purpose of creating a more efficiently and better run District.

In addition, given that both the Penryn Elementary School District and the Loomis Union Elementary School District are well-regarded, Annexation should not cause a dramatic increase in the property values in either of the current School Districts.

9. The Proposed Annexation Will Not Cause a Substantial Negative Effect on the Fiscal Management or Fiscal Status of Loomis Union Elementary School District.

Both the Loomis and Penryn Districts have "positive" budget certifications for the Fiscal Year 2003-04. This means that each Board has certified that its District can meet its financial obligations for the current fiscal year and the following two fiscal years. In addition both Districts have received positive Independent Auditors Reports for the 2003-04 school year.

Further, there are no material liabilities that would be produced as a result of the Annexation. Existing assets and liabilities of the two Districts would simply be combined. This combination would benefit the reorganized District through increased economies of scale. In addition, any increased costs to Loomis related to merging and reporting the Penryn's students, staff, facilities, etc. would be offset by corresponding revenue sources.

B. No Approval by the State Board of Education is Required

Education Code Section 35710 authorizes the County Committee to approve a territory transfer without input from the State. This Annexation is a territory transfer within the meaning of Section 35710.

VI. TERRITORY FOR ELECTION ON ANNEXATION

Any election on this petition will be held in the entire territories of the Loomis Union Elementary School District and the Penryn Elementary School District. Petitioners desire that all voters within the two existing Districts have a voice in the proposed merger of the Districts.

VII. METHOD FOR DIVIDING BONDED INDEBTEDNESS

Prior to Annexation, Loomis generated money from the issuance of bonds to benefit property exclusively within the current boundaries of the Loomis Union Elementary School District. Therefore, pursuant to Education Code § 35738, equity demands that the current bonded indebtedness of the Loomis Union Elementary School District remain as bonded debt only on property owned within the current Loomis District. In other words, this debt should not be extended to property owned within the Penryn District upon Annexation.

VIII. TRUSTEE AREAS

Upon Annexation, the trustee areas of the remaining reorganized District will be those shown in the attached Trustee Area Map (See attached map)

IX. ELECTION OF GOVERNING BOARD

Consistent with Education Code Section 5024, the first election to elect trustees to the reorganized District will occur at the same time as the election on the Annexation. For this first election, all of the voters in Penryn and Loomis will be able to participate in the election of trustees from trustee areas one and two of the redrawn Trustee Area Map (See attached map).

Further, assuming a majority of voters approve the Annexation, trustees of the Penryn Board and candidates elected to the Loomis Board from trustee areas one and two of the pre-redrawn Trustee Area Map will serve only through June 30, 2005.

X. CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, the Annexation would be beneficial to the students of both School Districts. Additionally, there would be no significant impact on the State caused by the reorganization.

Date: January 15 , 2004

For Loomis Union School District: Gary Mattevi, Michael J. Edwards, Lorene Euerle, Nancy Adkins, Jack Day

Date: January 15 , 2004

For Penryn Elementary School District: James L. Foster, Jr., Terri D. DuPriest, David Chappell, Scott Odegard, Richard Rollins

***Attachments to this petition, such as demographical data charts, an independent auditor report, interim reports, and a letter from the Placer County Treasurer-Tax Collector, are available upon request. For a copy of this petition with attachments, please contact the Elections Division at (530) 886-5650.**